

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 152413

60

ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCI-06 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NSF-04 CEQ-02 PRS-01

OMB-01 COME-00 ACDA-19 /087 R

DRAFTED BY USAEC:A.DALTON:DRW

8/2/73 119-5343

APPROVED BY SCI/AE:J.BLOOM

PM/AE - H.G.HANDYSIDE

EA/ANZ - MR. LANG

----- 124276

P 022147Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 152413

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TECH AS

SUBJECT: LETTER TO MR. N.S. CURRIE, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT
OF SUPPLY, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600, AUSTRALIA

1. PLEASE DELIVER SOONEST FOL MESSAGE TO MR. N.S.CURRIE,
ADDRESS AS SHOWN ABOVE:

"DEAR MR. CURRIE: AS YOU KNOW, THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY
FOR THE OPERATION OF PROJECT HIBAL AND SUPPORT OF THE
BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION, MILDURA EXPIRES ON MAY 9,
1974. I MUST, FOR BUDGETARY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS,
REGRETFULLY NOTIFY YOU THAT WE DO NOT PLAN TO RENEW
THIS AGREEMENT. WE DO, HOWEVER, FULLY PLAN TO CONTINUE
OPERATIONS THROUGH APRIL TO INCLUDE BOTH AEC SAMPLING
FLIGHTS AND THE MIT EXPEDITION PROPOSED FOR FEBRUARY
THROUGH APRIL 1974.

"WE SINCERELY HOPE THIS ACTION WILL NOT SIGNAL THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 152413

END OF THE BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION. AS INDICATED IN

DR. TOTTER'S LETTER OF JANUARY 26, 1970, TO MR. HOMEWOOD CONCERNING AUSTRALIAN SPONSORSHIP OF THE BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION, AUSTRALIA IS THE BEST LOCATION IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FOR BALLOON LAUNCHING OPERATIONS AND A SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE LOCATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR SOME ASPECTS OF ASTRONOMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH. IN ADDITION, AUSTRALIA HAS DEVELOPED A SIGNIFICANT EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENT FACILITIES FOR BALLOON LAUNCHINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING SOME IMPRESSIVE WORLD RECORDS. WE, THEREFORE, HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BALLOON LAUNCHING BASE.

"TO THIS END, THE AEC IS PREPARED TO LEAVE THE STATION INTACT FOR USE BY AUSTRALIA. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO APPROACH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OR OTHER INTERESTED FUNDING AGENCY TO DISCUSS A JOINT US/AUSTRALIAN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION, SHOULD YOU WISH TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY.

"WE HOPE THIS NOTICE WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO AN AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTED OPERATION, OR TO AN ORDERLY STATION CLOSING, WHICHEVER THE CASE MAY BE. WE, OF COURSE, ARE QUITE INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE MORALE AND QUALITY OF THE CREW HIGH THROUGH THE FINAL LAUNCH. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MIT EXPEDITION WHICH INVOLVES THE LAUNCH OF A 50-MILLION CUBIC FOOT BALLOON. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR ADVICE FOR A PLAN FOR THE ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF AEC SUPPORT.

"THIS PROJECT, STARTED IN 1960 AS A TEMPORARY PROGRAM, HAS DEVELOPED INTO ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND SUCCESSFUL ASPECTS OF OUR WORLDWIDE SAMPLING EFFORT. THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED HAS IN MANY CASES BEEN THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ABOUT THE STRATOSPHERE AND HAS SERVED AS THE BASIS FOR MUCH OF THE RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED NOW IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN FOR MAN'S IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE BALLOON LAUNCHING STATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 152413

HAS PROVIDED A VERY VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY SINCE 1966 BY LAUNCHING A WIDE VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FLIGHTS. IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I MUST CONVEY THIS NOTICE. SINCERELY, JAMES L. LIVERMAN, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH."

2. ORIGINAL LETTER FOLLOWS BY AIRPOUCH. WOULD

APPRECIATE AMEMBASSY ADVISING US DATE OF DELIVERY
OF ABOVE LETTER TO MR. CURRIE. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE152413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: A.DALTON:DRW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730861/aaaabsvr.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AEC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO MR. N.S. CURRIE, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600, AUSTRALIA
TAGS: TECH, AS
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005